New Era in Medicine Predicted By Dr. Pauling at Mount Holyoke

Nobel Prize Winner, at Dedication of New $1,000,000 Chemistry Unit, Stresses Study of Molecular Structure

By JOHN H. FENTON

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SOUTH HADLEY, Mass., April 23—Scientific warfare against disease by strategy deliberately plotted in research laboratories was envisioned today by a Nobel prize-winning chemist.

Dr. Linus Pauling of the California Institute of Technology, said a whole new era in medicine might result from the study of the molecular structure of the human body. He predicted that the problem could be solved within a decade or two.

Then it should be possible for the researcher to plot the molecular structure of a drug that would interact with abnormal human molecules "in such a way as to control the disease," he asserted. For the first time, a new drug will have been developed "in a completely straightforward scientific way," he added.

Dr. Pauling, who won the 1954 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his research in the nature of forces holding molecules together in proteins, spoke at the dedication of a new $1,000,000 chemistry building at Mount Holyoke College.

It is unlikely, he told more than 800 alumnae, students and science teachers that a penetrating understanding of the nature of disease, and of the action of drugs, can be had until the structures of protein molecules have been determined.

Chemistry as Aid to Mankind

Dr. Pauling spoke in Chapin Auditorium of Mary E. Wooley Hall. Using chalk, a blackboard and colored slides, he described some of the steps in the research that won him the Nobel Prize.

The white-haired scientist urged the chemistry students at Mount Holyoke to use their knowledge in the many ways chemistry can serve mankind. Especially, he said, they could aid medical research that would "pave the way for a straightforward attack on disease."

The new chemistry building is a split-level monolithic concrete and brick structure of modern design. It is attached as a wing to the older physics building. Newcomb Cleveland Hall, a two-story lecture auditorium, is named in honor of a New York advertising executive who bequeathed the major part of the building costs. The laboratories are on three levels. They also afford space for seminar rooms and offices.

The architect was the Office of Douglas Orr. George B. H. Macomber Company was the general contractor. Individual laboratories and research equipment were made possible through gifts of the alumnae and friends of the college.

Chemistry has been of increasing importance at Mount Holyoke in recent years. The laboratories have undertaken projects for the armed forces, particularly the Navy and Air Force. During the last academic year, the thirteen seniors majoring in chemistry represented the largest number of women graduating with certificates of the American Chemical Society in any university or college in the United States.

Present at today's ceremonies, in adidtion to alumnae and other donors, were members of the Connecticut Valley branch of the American Chemical Society and the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers.

Graduates Discuss Projects

A morning session was devoted to the chemical activities of Mount Holyoke graduates and undergraduates. Dr. Marion Maclean Davis, a chemist of the National Bureau of Standards, and Prof. Elizabeth Dyer of the University of Delaware discussed research projects. Miss Dorothy Gifford, head of the science department of the Lincoln School in Providence stressed trends in high school chemistry. Miss Lois Schmitt of Newark, N. J., spoke for honor students in chemistry and physics at the college.

In a brief press conference preceding the dedication, Dr. Pauling reiterated his warning about the potential dangers of radiation from nuclear weapons tests.

As a results of talks with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India on a recent world tour, Dr. Pauling said, he was convinced that the leaders of the world realized the futility of an atomic war. He said the principal worry was from "politicians."